

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 remain pending in the application. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

ELECTION/RESTRICTION

Applicant acknowledges the finality of the restriction requirement. Although Applicant maintains that no undue burden would be placed on the Examiner by examination of all the groups and embodiments in a single application, Applicant cancels non-elected and withdrawn claims 5-25.

DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. Applicant attaches revised drawings for the Examiner's approval. In the "Replacement Sheet", the legend "Prior Art" is added to Figures 15A and 15B. No new matter is added.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sweet (U.S. Pat. No. 3,757,818). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 calls for a three-way solenoid valve comprising: a first pilot valve, a second pilot valve, an inlet port, an outlet port, and an exhaust port, wherein: the inlet port is connected to the outlet port and the exhaust port is closed when both the first pilot valve and the second pilot valve are de-energized; the inlet port, the outlet port,

and the exhaust port are closed when the first pilot valve is energized and the second pilot valve is de-energized; and the outlet port is connected to the exhaust port and the inlet port is closed when the first pilot valve is de-energized and the second pilot valve is energized.

The Examiner states that Sweet discloses a three-way solenoid valve, comprising a first pilot valve (18), a second pilot valve (19), an inlet port (14), an outlet port (15), and an exhaust port (46). The Examiner also states that the valve of Sweet operates as follows:

(1) when both the first pilot valve and second pilot valve are de-energized, the inlet port and the outlet port are connected, and the exhaust port is closed;

(2) when the first pilot valve is energized and the second pilot valve is de-energized, the inlet port, the outlet port, and the exhaust port are closed;

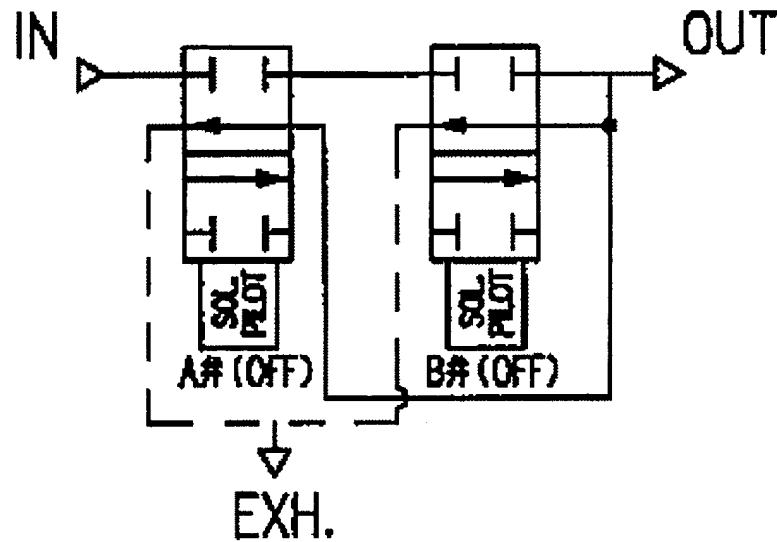
(3) when the first pilot valve is energized and the second pilot valve is energized, the outlet port and the exhaust port are connected, and the inlet port is closed.

The Examiner states that, in light of the above-described operation of the valve of Sweet, Claim 1 of the present invention does not have novelty over Sweet.

Applicant agrees that the Sweet reference discloses two pilot valves and two main valves. However, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's interpretation of the operation of the valve of Sweet. Namely, Applicant submits that the valve of Sweet operates as follows:

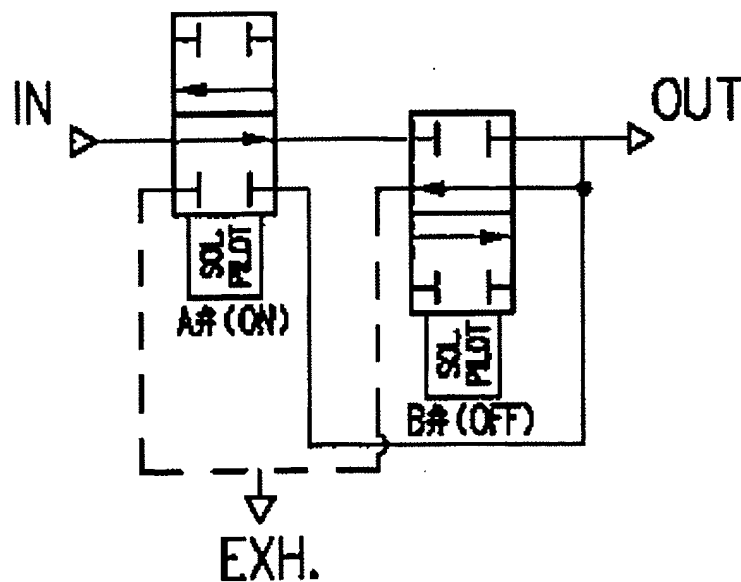
(1) when both the first pilot valve and second pilot valve are de-energized, the outlet port and the exhaust port are connected, and the inlet port is closed.

(see the drawing below)



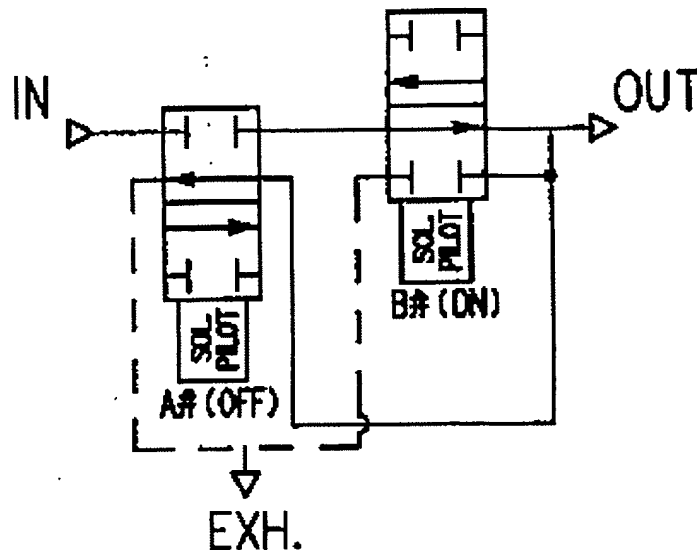
(2) when the first pilot valve is energized and the second pilot valve is de-energized, the outlet port and the exhaust port are connected, and the inlet port is closed.

(see the drawing below)



(3) when the first pilot valve is energized and the second pilot valve is energized, the outlet port and the exhaust port are connected, and the inlet port is closed.

(see the drawing below)



Thus, the operation of the valve of Sweet is clearly different from that of the valve of the claimed invention. As such, Sweet fails to teach or suggest a three-way solenoid valve wherein: the inlet port is connected to the outlet port and the exhaust port is closed when both the first pilot valve and the second pilot valve are de-energized; the inlet port, the outlet port, and the exhaust port are closed when the first pilot valve is energized and the second pilot valve is de-energized; and the outlet port is connected to the exhaust port and the inlet port is closed when the first pilot valve is de-energized and the second pilot valve is energized.

Also, the valve of Claim 1 of the present invention has a technical effect that it can operate with low power consumption (only one of the two pilot valves is energized when the anti-lock brake system is in an anti-lock operation mode), whereas two pilot

valves of Sweet are normally energized or de-energized in unison (see column 3, lines 5-7 of Sweet). Therefore, the valve of Sweet cannot operate with low power consumption in its normal state.

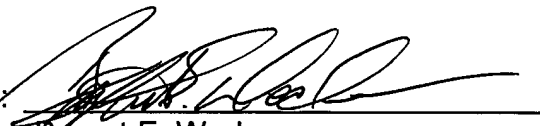
In view of the foregoing, it can be appreciated that the valve of claim 1 and the valve of Sweet are different in configuration, operation, and technical effect. Therefore, applicant submits that Claims 1-4 of the present invention have novelty over Sweet.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheet" of drawings includes changes to Figures 15A and 15B. The attached "Replacement Sheet," which includes Figures 15A and 15B, replaces the original sheet including Figures 15A and 15B.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet